Bahrain Government receives 50% of the profits of the oil industry. 652
The Eastern Bank, since it was established in 1919, has served as the State's Treasury and a Budget is published every year showing the revenue and expenditure of the State.

The Customs Directorate is in the centre of the Manama sea front 651
and there are subsidiary offices in Muharraq Town, at the Airport 439
and at Sitra. All goods of any kind which are imported or exported 504
must pass through the customs. The Customs Pier at Manama, which was originally built in 1917, has frequently been lengthened and enlarged and now extends for a quarter of a mile out to sea. Owing to shallow water, vessels in the Manama harbour have to anchor some three miles from the shore and passengers and cargo are conveyed to and from the steamers by launches, barges and sailing dhows. The port and storage facilities in Bahrain are better than elsewhere in the Gulf and importers are allowed to retain their goods in the customs premises for ninety days before re-exporting them. There are usually about 90-100 sailing vessels and launches alongside and anchored off the pier, these come from other Gulf ports, from the west coast of India and from the Red Sea. Walking down the customs pier one sees many interesting types of vessels and sea-faring Arabs from all parts of the Gulf and beyond it.

On the west of the entrance to the Pier is the Passport Office. 486
Passport Officials go aboard all passenger vessels and are present at the Airport when aircraft arrive. Bahrain has had its own passports since 1929.

On the south side of the Square, which has a little garden in the 344
centre of it, is the "Bab al-Bahrain," the Gateway of Bahrain, consisting of two large blocks of office buildings with an archway in the centre. On the south side of the western block there is a fine old Arab door and on the balconies of the buildings as well as around the garden in the Square there are cement panels containing Arabesque patterns copied from old buildings in Bahrain.

The Bab al-Bahrain contains the finance and accounts department 344
where all payments to the Government for electricity, water, etc., etc., 655
are made, the Land Department which deals with sales and registration 423
of property and questions about boundaries and ownership of land, the registration of sales being compulsory, and several other government offices. His Highness has a reception room overlooking the 643
square on the first floor of the building where he sits on Wednesday mornings. Here he receives any visitors who wish to call on him and sees people who present petitions. On Monday mornings he visits the Municipal Buildings at Muharraq where he holds a similar reception.

East of the Customs, on the sea front, is the Law Courts Building 692
which contains a number of different courts including religious courts presided over by the Qadis of the Sunni and Shia sects. Certain foreigners, including British, Americans, Pakistanis and Indians are under the judicial authority of H.B.M.'s Political Agent. In mixed

491 south past the Jebal ad-Dukhan and the oil field. This last road, which deteriorates after leaving Awali, after passing Jebal Amr crosses the plain and ascending the rim-rock reaches the Ruler's Hunting Lodge at Rumaitha. From here the road goes due west to another Hunting Lodge at Matalla and joins the road from Zellaq to Ras al-Barr, the southern end of Bahrain Island.

The third main road leading from Manama runs parallel to and about 1-2 miles from the north coast of Bahrain. Passing through some of the most flourishing gardens in the islands, with thick green hedges by the road's edge, the driver is shaded by rows of tall date palms that cast a shadow over the road during most of the day and form an umbrella against the sun. After leaving the village of Jidhafs the road crosses patches of desert, clumps of tumuli alternate with gardens, and for the last few miles before reaching Budaiya, on the north-west corner of Bahrain, there is a shrubby desert where camels, sheep and goats graze. Beyond the Government Experimental Garden the road reaches the sea, and swinging south by the Police Post it enters the village of Budaiya. From here it bears south, through a number of villages and across the pipe-line road from Rifaa to Jesra, and finally to Zellaq.

The fourth road out of Manama, in fact a continuation of the sea road, leads across the Muharraq causeway to the town and island of that name, and after following the Muharraq sea road swings inland and crosses a short stretch of sand before reaching the edge of the Airport. Here the road branches; one branch leads to the north in the direction of the Airport and the other follows the curve of Arad Bay and then goes straight across the desert to the town of Hedd. Other roads branch off from this to the villages which fringe the coasts of Muharraq and to the gardens of Arad.

To return to the main island of Bahrain. Along the length of the Awal Road and particularly where it passes through the gardens, there are various roads and lanes leading to Zinj and Bilad al-Qadim to Saar and Salmabad, while a little distance to the south of Suq al-Khamis is the turning to the south towards the Adari Pool. Further south again a well-surfaced but somewhat winding road connects the Awal and Budaiya Roads, coming out on to the latter about half a mile west of Jidhafs. Shortly after passing Radhm al-Qawari, second class roads to the east and west lead respectively to the villages of the north-east coast, Tubli, Sanad and Ikur, and to Aali and beyond. Further on along Awal Road there is a road junction with a main road branching off to the south-east in the direction of the Refinery and Sitra. This road, after crossing the Awali-Sitra Road skirts the Refinery and then follows the east coast to the villages of Asker, Jaw and Dour.

It is impossible to describe in detail the many roads in Bahrain, but these are shown on the map of Bahrain and most of them branch off from the main roads which have been mentioned.

505 Communication with the other islands of Bahrain are mentioned
● 423 in Part III and visits can usually be arranged to them by private agree-
486

ment with launch or dhow owners, but it should be remembered that some of them are private property. Umm as-Sabaan is the private property of Mr. Max W. Thornberg, Jidda being a penal settlement, is forbidden ground, and Umm an-Nasaan may only be visited with permission of H.H. The Ruler. The others, the small islands south of Muharraq, Nebih Salih, Jezira and the Howar islands are free to all visitors and a visit to them makes a change from drives around the islands.

Transport in Bahrain includes both bus and taxi, the former are not the luxurious affairs seen in Europe and England but have wooden bodies built in Bahrain and attached to an imported chassis. Taxis, however, are not too expensive if care is taken to pay the correct fare which is recorded in a fare book that should be carried by every driver. It is rumoured that taxis will soon carry meters, which will certainly simplify matters, but till that happy day passengers who have complaints to make about being over-charged should make them to the Traffic Department of the State Police.

Petrol and oil are cheap in Bahrain, which is not surprising, and the import tax on cars and motor cycles is only 10%, so that to own and run a private car is cheaper than in England or the States, as many fortunate people have discovered. Most makes of cars are obtainable in Bahrain, garage facilities have increased and the improvement in the roads has enabled English cars to be used with comfort.

The old-fashioned form of transport in Bahrain was the donkey. It was used for every task, for bringing the produce of the country for sale in the town, for pulling carts and for riding. The white Bahrain donkeys used to be well known all over the Middle East and they were exported from Bahrain to places as far distant as the East African coast. Today buses are replacing donkeys, there are bus services between most of the villages, though many of the young men prefer to use bicycles. Lorries too have successfully competed with donkeys and now carry most of the goods between the towns and villages, but in the gardens and in the narrow country lanes one still meets many donkeys though few of the fine white beasts for which the islands were famous long ago. However, the donkey will never entirely die out, for he has certain advantages over other methods of transport, he can reproduce young donkeys, he can find his own way along small and narrow tracks in the gardens and he produces manure, which is a valuable commodity in Bahrain.

CHAPTER V

BAHRAIN'S OIL INDUSTRY

THE man who was chiefly responsible for the discovery of Bahrain's oil resources was an Australian, Major Frank Holmes, who came to Bahrain on behalf of the Eastern and General Syndicate, a British prospecting company. Major Holmes, after drilling a number of artesian wells and thus discovering something about the composition

226 There are many different ways of fishing in Bahrain. Most of the fish is caught in "hadhra", fish traps built from palm branches. From the air these traps are a conspicious feature in the Persian Gulf, looking like huge arrow-heads with two long wings and a small circular head set along the shore and pointing out to sea. On closer inspection it can be seen that the sides of the arrow consist of fences built of date branches fastened into the ground and tied with rope, these lead to a circular enclosure at the end of the trap. The principle is simple ; as the tide comes in the fish approach the shore, when the tide recedes it carries them into the arms of the trap and eventually into the trap itself where they are left flapping about in the shallow water. The owner of [423] the trap then comes from the shore and collects the catch. The sites of the traps are very valuable and are registered in the Land Department. Some sites have been sold for as much as 30,000 rupees. Poaching fish in the area of a fish trap is regarded as a serious offence.

Another type of fish trap is like a giant lobster pot, made from wire and as much as eight feet in diameter. This is filled with ground bait, the fish enter it through a narrow funnel in its side and once there they are unable to escape. Fish of many sizes and varieties are caught in these traps, which can be seen on the shore along the Muharraq water front.

Nets of various kinds are used including circular throwing nets and drifters. The sight of an experienced net thrower is always fascinating and fishermen using this form of net can often be seen in the shallow seas to the south of the Manama-Muharraq Causeway. Drifting nets with pieces of date palm bark in place of corks are also popular and are used by the villagers on the coast. Fishing with hook and line is practised mostly by sporting amateurs and those who fish for amusement off the Causeway and elsewhere, The local fishermen depend mainly on traps, nets and Sim.

Sim, which literally means "poison," is the seed of the Persian Lilac tree and is much used in Bahrain during the hot weather. The seed, when dried, is pounded up into a mixture of dead crabs, small fish and paste which serves as bait. The fishermen choose a calm warm day when the tide is coming in and sprinkle the mixture on shallow water so that it will drift over the area where they expect to find fish. After a short wait small fish appear flapping about on the surface, apparently chasing their tails or else diving steeply. Soon the larger fish appear, behaving in the same manner. The fishermen then slip into the sea and set about catching the fish, which is by no means easy, for though the fish are doped they are still able to elude the grasping hands of the fishermen. Sometimes very big hauls of fish are caught in this manner. The effects of the drug are not lasting and the fish who have eluded the fishermen recover and swim away. Although Sim has a stupifying effect on fish it does no harm to people who eat them. Much of the fish which is sold in the markets of Manama, Muharraq and Hedd has been caught in this way.

[Minor's Estates Department]

657 736 Disbursements for maintenance amounted to Rs. 108,800, almost exactly the same sum as was paid out in the previous year. At the beginning of the year the number of orphans and widows who were drawing allowances was 442, of these 36 attained majority and took over their property, cash payments to them totalled Rs. 182,500.

657 662 The Department built four houses in Manama and Muharraq and carried out repairs to a number of other buildings, the expenditure under this heading was Rs. 78,000.

As usual the funds held by the Department together with funds placed at its disposal by the Government were given out on loan to the public, at interest, secured by title deeds of immovable property or gold. The rates of interest charged by the Department are low in comparison to those prevailing in the market.

During the year the Government placed with the Department a further 2¼ lakhs, making its total deposit Rs. 10,80,000.

Interest on loans collected during the year was Rs. 1,46,000, there is a scale of interest depending upon the amount of the loan, the average rate of interest during the year was 6 per cent.

Loans repaid to the Department during the year amounted to Rs. 19,29,000, about 3 lakhs more than in 1371, new loans, made to the public, were approximately 24¼ lakhs. At the end of the year 24¼ lakhs were on loan to the public.

DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNT

Receipts			Expenditure		
Balance from 1371 ..	Rs.	16, 585 6 10	Maintenance allowances, etc.	Rs.	1,08,876 9 0
From estates and compensation cases		1,31,249 1 8	Purchase of properties ..		9,330 0 0
Rents		1,96,394 13 4	Upkeep of buildings and additions ..		78,325 15 11
Refund of Loans ..		19,29,600 0 0	Payments to the beneficiaries		1,82,511 10 0
Interest on Loans ..		1,46,040 0 0	Loans advanced ..		24,40,250 0 0
Deposits		2,09,051 12 5	Balance in the Eastern Bank		1,25,205 9 1
Loan from Government		2,50,000 0 0			
By sale of properties ..		50,451 4 3			
Debts recovered ..		15,127 5 6			
Total	Rs.	29,44,499 12 0	Total	Rs.	29,44,499 12 0

LAND REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

(From the report of Mr. Abdul-Aziz Al Saleh, acting Superintendent of the Department)

423 651 425 **Land Registration.** There were 1,072 transactions during the year which included 628 sales, 262 registration of titles and 182 gifts; the properties which were dealt with consisted of 273 plots of ground, most of them being building sites, 82 gardens, 47 shops and 26 miscellaneous lots. Fees amounting to Rs. 1,27,975 were collected of which Rs. 1,20,781 was derived from sales and Rs. 7,194 from registration of titles, etc

JUDICIAL

(From the report of Mr. Salim Al Arayedh, Superintendent, Judicial Department)

The number of cases of all kinds which were filed in the Senior Court, consisting of Shaikh Daij bin Hamed and Shaikh Ali bin Ahmed, sitting separately except on one day of the week when both sit together with the Adviser, was 1158. This was 258 more than in the previous year. The cases consisted of 451 civil suits of which 15 related to administration of estates, 430 criminal charges, including a number of trivial matters which would not usually be dealt with by a senior court, and 227 land registration cases. The increase over the previous year was mainly due to the court having acquired jurisdiction over nationals of other Gulf States. Of these cases 167 were civil suits. 691

In all the courts civil suits predominate and a high proportion of them are concerned with immovable property. The high value of land, especially in the towns, has made the public more conscious of the importance of boundaries and the worth of property. There has been much litigation over inheritance and shares in houses and gardens. Heirs in estates who in the past were content to live together in one building now apply to the courts for an order to divide the property so that they may sell their shares in it. Because such high prices can be obtained for land anybody who can claim even a small share in a building or a garden takes his case to the courts. 691 423 428

It has been noticed in the Appeal Court too that questions of land ownership and boundaries have predominated.

There were no important civil cases and, apart from traffic offences, no serious crimes. A man stabbed his brother during a quarrel, inflicting "grievous hurt" for which he was sentenced to four years rigorous imprisonment and in two fatal traffic accidents drivers of vehicles were sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment and to pay fines of Rs. 5,000/-. In certain traffic offences the occupants of cars ran away which suggests that they were probably under the influence of liquor when the accidents occurred. 681 697

Fines amounting to Rs. 7,623/- were paid into court and the sum collected in court fees was Rs. 43,599.

In the small courts 1,964 new cases were filed, 1,668 cases were disposed of and at the end of the year 692 cases were pending. The courts issued 506 execution orders leaving 155 to be dealt with at the end of the year. 691

The Sunni and Shia Courts heard 269 and 172 cases respectively leaving 119 and 51 cases pending. Out of 129 cases which were referred to the Majlis Tajara for an opinion 94 cases were returned to the courts and 35 cases were pending.

The Sunni Shera Court did not work smoothly during the year owing to differences of opinion among the three Kadis, two of them being of the Maliki and one of the Shafi Sect. At one time all cases were judged according to the Maliki tenets, this being the sect of the Ruling Family, but some years ago the Government issued a direction to the court according to which if the plaintiff, or both parties, followed the Shafi doctrine then their case should be tried according to Shafi law. 692 693

There has also been criticism of the Maglis Tajara which consists of a group of leading merchants appointed by the Government who give opinions on commercial matters and local custom. They are busy men and they receive no pay and when it is inconvenient for them to attend the court, and it is frequently inconvenient, they do not appear. Often less than half of the number are present. In addition, they are closely connected either as competitors or partners and it is sometimes difficult for them to give impartial opinion.

The Shia Appeal Kadi gave judgment in 18 cases, the Senior Appeal Court heard 27 cases and the Junior Appeal Court dealt with 28 cases.

GENERAL

648 **Distinguished Visitors.** Among the many notable persons who visited Bahrain during the year were H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent and H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, who were on their way to the Far East. H.H. Shaikh Abdulla As Salim, Ruler of Kuwait paid his usual visit to the country ; H.E. Ghulam Mohammed, Governor General of Pakistan, stayed for a night on his way to Saudi Arabia. Other visitors were H.E. Dr. Mohammed Fadhel Al Jamali, Prime Minister of Iraq ; Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck ; His Eminence Jirgis, Daoud Kandila, Metropolitan of the Syrian Catholic Church ; a group of British Members of Parliament ; numerous rulers of the Shaikhdoms of the Trucial Coast ; foreign diplomats ; journalists of many nationalities and senior British and American Army, Navy and Air Force Officers.

Coronation of King Faisal. H.E. Shaikh Isa, the eldestson of His Highness, represented his father at the coronation in Baghdad in June of H.M. King Faisal II. He was accompanied by several of his relations. The Bahrain delegation travelled to and from Baghdad by air.

655 **Postage Stamps.** A Bahrain 1½ Anna stamp, for internal postage, bearing a portrait of His Highness Shaikh Sulman, was brought into circulation during the year. Some progress was made in the process of the Government gradually taking over the administration of the postal services.

000 **"Caltex Bahrain."** The new oil tanker, *Caltex Bahrain*, was launched in December, in England. The launching ceremony was performed by Lady Belgrave.

471 274 **Pepsi Cola Factory.** Mr. Husain Ahmedi, a local merchant, built a factory on the south-west of Manama for making Pepsi Cola. This is the first enterprise of this type which has been undertaken in Bahrain.

423 656 **Stamped Paper and Title Deeds.** The Government adopted a new design of stamped paper, which is used for agreements, receipts, powers of attorney, etc. New forms were also introduced for title deeds.

797 **Anglican Church.** The building of an Anglican Church was completed on a site east of the Fort which was presented to the Anglican Community by His Highness Shaikh Sulman.

000 **Agriculture.** No report on agriculture has been included this year as Mr. J. Edmond, the Agricultural Officer, completed his period of contract with the Government and proceeded on leave, pending retirement, on 15th September, 1952.

Mr. Van Ollenbach was appointed Agricultural Officer and began his duties on 5th January, 1953.

HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH SULMAN'S VISIT TO ENGLAND

648 His Highness Shaikh Sulman left Bahrain, by air, on 13th May and arrived back in his country on June 26th. His party consisted of his youngest son, Shaikh Mohammed bin Sulman, Sir Charles and Lady Belgrave, Mr. Husain Yateem and two secretaries.

He travelled by air to Beirut where he stayed for one night ; by sea, in S.S. *Esperia*, to Venice where he stayed for three days ; by train to Montreux, on the Lake of Geneva, where he spent four days, and on by train to Paris where he stayed for two nights. He reached London on May 28th.

5: Bahrain G-5 (1926-1937) 1937 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

653
491

Manamah in shops and offices who had to leave their houses in Muharraq and live in Manamah owing to the difficulty of crossing to and fro are now able to live in Muharraq and to cross the channel and come into Manamah by bus.

In addition to the convenience of the road, it has provided work for thousands of men, who cut stone from the sea and bring it ashore in boats during times of unemployment. Everything in the road, except the cement in the parapet and the wooden beams in the culverts, is produced locally. In my opinion, it can be reasonably supposed that not less than 75% of the money expended has been spent in the Bahrain bazaars by the labourers who earned the money and has stimulated local trade.

LAND REGISTRATION

647
423

Survey. This department began its work about twelve years ago, and for the first six years it was mainly occupied in making a survey of the villages and cultivated area in Bahrain. The work, with the exception of two small areas, was completed before the financial depression necessitated reduction of the staff of the Land Department, which put an end to the survey.

When the survey first began it met with considerable opposition from the Shia villagers, who were suspicious of the Government's intentions, but after a short time the object of the work was appreciated by the people and no further difficulties were made.

The results of the work are contained in a quantity of maps showing gardens with their boundaries with reference numbers to registers which contain particulars of owners, water rights, and details about the property. At the time of the survey, information about boundaries, water rights, etc., was obtained from the landlords and from their tenants. Usually in Bahrain the landlords know very little about their gardens and rely almost entirely on the tenants for information about boundaries and water rights. In cases where original documents existed these were examined and checked, but in a great many cases property owners have no title deeds. Before completing the records, the Land Registration Department published a proclamation calling on the public to notify the department if the particulars for registration were not correct.

In addition to the survey of villages and gardens, the department made a survey and a large scale map of Manamah town, and also Hedd and Muharraq; the work in the case of these towns did not include registration of rights. The map of Manamah was made when the electric scheme was first considered and the map was used for planning the layout.

Reports on Land Cases. In addition to general survey work, every year the department provides plans and reports to the courts on cases of land disputes. During some years several hundreds of reports have been made, and these reports are usually the decisive factor in settling cases. The Land Department deals with cases in the Bahrain courts and also in the Agency courts.

Registration of Sales and Titles. The registration of property in Bahrain is not compulsory, but every year there is an increase in the number of people who apply for the registration of their houses or gardens. The public now realise the value of a Government title deed, and they appreciate the fact that when the title deed has been issued nobody can contest it. The only people who during the last ten years have attempted to set aside a Government title deed are certain members of the Ruling Family. Their claims failed, but if they had succeeded the valuable work of the Land Registration Department over many years would have been seriously affected.

Mortgages. The registration of sales of property was made compulsory in 1929, and in 1931 a proclamation was issued to the effect that no claim for foreclosure of a mortgage on immovable property would be heard in the courts unless the property had been previously registered on a Government title deed. The result of this is that nobody can mortgage property unless he holds a Government title deed for it. The actual transaction of the mortgage

5; Bahrain G-5 (1926-1937) 1937 . MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

need not be registered, but the existence of a Government title deed ensures that the property is free from claims. Before this rule was made, cases frequently occured in the courts in which the same property was mortgaged to two different people.

Government Title Deeds. Government title deeds are hand-written documents in Arabic, describing the property with all measurements, boundaries, water rights, and particulars, and on the reverse of each title deed there is a plan of the property with measurements shown in feet and inches. The documents are signed on both sides by the Ruler, the Adviser, and the Superintendent of the Land Department. A person wishing to register his property makes a written application to the Land Registration Department. The property is surveyed by the Land Department surveyors in the presence of the owner or his agent, or, in the case of a sale, in the presence of both parties; if necessary, boundary pillars are erected. A proclamation is then issued, calling on all persons having any claim on the property to submit claims in writing within fifteen to thirty days in the case of a sale, and ninety days in the case of registration of ownership. Claims are forwarded to the Bahrain Court by the Land Department and are decided by the court, which also examines all applications for titles before the final documents are issued. The procedure is somewhat slow, but it is effective, and since it has been in force the number of disputes about land, boundaries, water rights, and fish-traps is gradually declining. Fees are charged for registration of sales according to a sliding scale in the case of sales, depending upon the sale price, and at a fixed rate in the case of registration of ownership. The fees in the latter case are low and do not cover in some cases the cost of the work, but it is to the advantage of the public and the Government that as much property as possible should be registered and, to encourage registration, fees are small. Between 400 and 500 title deeds have been issued by the department every year during the last ten years, and each year there has been a gradual but steady ncrease in applications for registration of ownership.

Fish-Traps. In 1353 (1934) all fish-traps round the coast of Bahrain and the various islands were registered, and rules were laid down with the object of preventing people from erecting and then claiming ownership to fish-traps on Government property. It was enacted that the owners of fish-traps had no rights over the boundaries mentioned in their title deeds, except as far as protection from other persons who might wish to erect fish-traps within the area described. In many cases great pieces of the sea were described in old documents as being the boundaries of a certain fish-trap, and if full ownership to these areas was admitted, valuable land along the foreshore would be lost to the Government if the owners chose to reclaim it. The department dealt with the question of a batch of very valuable traps close to the Bahrain Petroleum Company's pier at Sitrah, and was mainly responsible for arranging a settlement between the Bahrain Petroleum Company and the owners of the traps.

Land Leases and Government Forms. In addition to survey and registration work, the Land Department is responsible for leasing Government land, mostly in the neighbourhood of Manamah, to persons who live upon it in Barastis. The rents are very low, but the existence of a regular agreement between the Government and the occupier of the ground ensures that the Government retains its ownership of the land. In Bahrain, ten years' undisputed and uhinterrupted occupation is sufficient to establish the ownership of the ground. Printed Government forms, the use of which is compulsory in the case of senads, powers of attorney, and diving 'barwas,' etc., are sold by the Land Department, and every year over 15,000 of these forms are purchased by the public.

The revenue collected by the Land Department does not cover the cost of the department, but the value of land registration to the Government and to the public is very great. The continued success of the registration work can only be ensured as long as the principle that Government title deeds, when once issued, cannot be contested is maintained. Frequent attempts have been made, usually by influential personages, to set aside title deeds, but so far without success. If one case of this kind should meet with success, the whole system would be seriously affected.

5: Bahrain G-5, (1926-1937) 1937 MZ2 Bahrain MZ2

Ruler's house at Sakhir with the exchange by means of a line from Manamah through the Bahrain Petroleum Company's exchange. Telephonic communication now exists over a great part of the islands; from the aerodrome in Muharraq it is possible to talk to steamers lying off Sitra, as a submarine cable was laid by the Bahrain Petroleum Company to the Sitra anchorage, or to distant points on the oil field far down at the south end of the island.

At the end of 1355 (1936-37) there were 40 telephone subscribers, and it is expected that during the next year this number will increase to 60. The trunk line to the Bahrain Petroleum Company's Camp was duplicated in order to deal with the increased traffic. The possibility of installing an automatic switchboard (100 lines) is now under consideration. The advantages would be the elimination of operators and the language difficulties and the prevention of listening-in.

SUMMARY OF SEVEN YEARS' WORKING

Year.	Units Generated.	Units Sold.	Revenue Rs	Connected Load in Kw.
1349 (1930-31) ...	88,080 ...	47,340 ...	20,750/- ...	102
1350 (1931-32) ...	111,367 ...	65,813 ...	22,486/- ...	46
1351 (1932-33) ...	120,629 ...	79,550 ...	27,463/- ...	23
1352 (1933-34) ...	134,744 ...	83,241 ...	30,987/- ...	9
1353 (1934-35) ...	147,050 ...	100,449 ...	36,797/- ...	16
1354 (1935-36) ...	163,751 ...	116,440 ...	43,828/- ...	27
1355 (1936-37) ...	232,320 ...	151,255 ...	60,108/- ...	58

The revenue figures are shown to the nearest rupee.

AGRICULTURE

Until a few years ago agriculture in Bahrain consisted of cultivating dates and lucerne fairly extensively and growing citrus fruit and a few poor vegetables such as onions, tomatoes, radishes, and melons. In 1930 the Government attempted to encourage agriculture by employing an agricultural expert from Iraq, but owing to lack of funds his services were dispensed with before he could make much progress.

The encouragement of agriculture presents many difficulties. Bahrain Arabs regard all agricultural work as derogatory; I have never met one who worked in a garden or a date grove. All the cultivators are Shia aboriginals or Hasawis imported from the mainland as labourers. This feeling against working on the land, and also the question of land tenure have, I believe, restricted the increase of agriculture during the last century. There is ample evidence to show that in the past a great deal more land was cultivated than is to-day. The people who do work on the land are intensely conservative and view all methods except their own with dislike and suspicion.

Land Tenure. Most of the open cultivatable land, which is along the coast, is claimed by the Ruling Family, who make no use of it themselves, but prevent the Baharna from extending their existing gardens. In the past, Shaikh Sir Isa was in the habit of issuing papers to various of his relations, gifting to them whole districts of Bahrain. These 'hiba' documents, which were often written on scraps of paper, included large areas described as 'sehat,' containing roads, villages, springs, privately owned property as well as open land. The Shaikhs who acquired 'hibas' enjoyed feudal rights over the territories which were mentioned in their documents, and in the past they were allowed to make what they could out of them by independent taxation of the people living in the villages, by employing forced labour and by using open land as grazing grounds for the animals which they used to own before the days of motor cars. When the 'hiba' system began, long before the introduction of artesian wells, the possibility of increased cultivation was not visualised, but now the holders of 'hibas'

have interpreted them as giving actual and exclusive ownership of all land which is not privately owned which is really State land. As a result of this condition, nearly all the land from Manamah to beyond Zellaq, along the coast, is claimed by various members of the Ruling Family.

Date Cultivation. Dates are the most important crop in Bahrain; though not as good as the Hassa dates, they are said to be more lasting. Most gardens contain a large proportion of inferior species which are used only for feeding animals. Few gardens are well kept. More than half of the gardens belong to the Khalifah, who for years have spent no money on improving them, but in spite of this they complain incessantly that the rents have fallen off, which is owing to the decrease in the market price of dates by over 60%, and the deterioration of the gardens from lack of care and expenditure on improvements. Dates form part of the staple diet in Bahrain and are much used for provisioning the pearl fleet, but the home-grown crop is not enough to meet the local demand, and every year about six lacs' worth of dates are imported from Hassa and Iraq. There is no land tax and no tax on date trees in Bahrain, so it is impossible to give an estimate of the number of date palms, but the whole area under cultivation is very small, perhaps one-fiftieth of the total area of the islands. Recently the number of date gardens has been slightly increased, as a few people, notably the Ruler himself, have sunk artesian wells and planted land with trees. The date crop could undoubtedly be improved if more care was taken over the cultivation. In Bahrain, date cultivation is a casual affair, trees are never manured, and there is no regular system of planting. In one of the Ruler's gardens the experiment was made some years ago of manuring the roots of the trees, and the result of this was that the trees produced better crops than those which had not been manured. The use of any form of fertiliser, either decayed leaves and camel thorn or animal manure, was unknown a few years ago, but it is now being used in gardens, but not for date trees.

Lucerne. Lucerne is used extensively as fodder for cows and donkeys. It grows rapidly and is easily cultivated on poor soil. Both Hassa and Bahrain seeds are used, the latter being more expensive, and when once established it will grow for as long as ten years and will give a crop every month. It is very hardy in growth, but is liable to attacks by a kind of small caterpillar which appears once or twice every year and destroys all the lucerne in whole districts of the country. Experiments have been made by the camel section of the police in drying lucerne and using it as dry fodder when out on patrol; this has been found very successful.

Cereals. At one time it was the custom of the people of Rafsa to sow barley before the rainy season on the plain below the town, and for many years successful crops were harvested, but the crop occasionally failed owing to lack of rain. For some years now this practice has ceased, partly because the people of Rafsa are more prosperous than before, as almost all the able-bodied men of the town have obtained employment with the Bahrain Petroleum Company.

An experiment was made in growing California barley by the Government some years ago on irrigated land, and this was found to be a success.

Last year, millet was raised in the Fort garden. It sprang from the camel manure which was used in the soil. It grew sufficiently well to show that there were possibilities of its being grown on a large scale. Maize or Indian corn has also been grown in small quantities.

Three years ago a crop of rice was grown by Khan Bahadur Abdul Aziz Gonaibi, who is a large landowner and interested in agriculture. The rice was grown in rich, well-watered land near Sehlah; the seed was from Hassa, where it is cultivated extensively, and the crop yielded a small profit.

A little maize or Indian corn is grown in some gardens, and finds a ready sale in the bazaar; the quality is poor, probably because no care is taken to procure good seed.

Cotton. In the time of the Caliphs, cotton from Bahrain used to be sent to Baghdad, but it is not certain that this cotton was grown in the islands, as at that time much of the mainl[illegible] was also known as Bahrain. In 1930 an experiment was made in growing

August 2, 1928, which developed in detail the matters discussed in the preceding note and affirmed Persian sovereignty over Bahrein. England answered on February 18, 1929, developing the arguments in her first note and reiterating her previous contentions.

Meanwhile, the Bahrein Government instituted visa regulations and established a land registry office. Since the promulgation of the decree of December 21, 1927, all real properties had to be registered, but no one except "a subject of Bahrein" had right to own property in the island.

Obviously this was to deprive Persians of their rights of ownership in Bahrein. Many sold their land and migrated to Persia, and those who stayed behind had to accept Bahrein citizenship.[1]

Also, previously passports had not been required from Persians travelling to Bahrein, and Persia protested against the change. According to the Persian note, the change "was the explicit recognition by the English authorities of the indisputable right of Iran [Persia] over Bahrein."

Publication of the news of oil concessions obtained previously by Major Holmes from the Bahrein Government, provoked on July 23, 1930, another note from Persia, in which she declared the concession invalid and "reserved—the right to reclaim or to demand restitution of all profits resulting eventually from that concession, without prejudice of all damages relating to it." This strong protest did not deter the English syndicate from ceding its rights to the Standard Oil Company of California, which began systematic exploitation.

The concession to prospect and explore for oil in Bahrein had been obtained on December 2, 1925, to Major Frank Holmes, representing Eastern and General Syndicate, a British company headed by Edmond Davis. For two years, the syndicate tried without success, to interest first British, and later American concerns, in the development of the Bahrein concession. Finally, on

1. This decree was still stiffened by the decrees of 1930 and that of May 23, 1941.